

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 2-3 and amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for modifying the surface of an article, said method comprising the steps of:

a) depositing at least a polyelectrolytic tie layer onto the surface of said article, wherein said polyelectrolytic tie layer is composed of (i) one layer of a first polyionic material which is not covalently attached to the surface of the article or (ii) at least one layer of the first polyionic material which is not covalently attached to the surface of the article and at least one layer of a second polyionic material having charges opposite of the charges of the first polyionic material, wherein said first and second polyionic materials have functional groups which provide reactive sites; and

b) grafting covalently linking a layer of an active agent to said reactive sites, wherein the active agent is an anti-microbial agent, a polymeric initiator, a polymer, or a hydrophilic polymer, provided each of the polymer and hydrophilic polymer is different from any one of the first polyionic material and the second polyionic material.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in the step of depositing two or more polyelectrolytic tie layers are successively deposited onto said article surface.

5. (previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in the step of depositing one polyelectrolytic tie layer is deposited onto said article surface.

6. (previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said polyelectrolytic tie layer is deposited onto said article surface by contacting said article with one or more polyionic material solutions.

7. (previously Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said layer is deposited by dipping said article into a first solution comprising the first polyionic material having positive or negative charges, removing said article from said first solution, dipping said article into a second solution comprising the second polyionic material having charges that are opposite of the charges of the first polyionic material, and removing said article from said second solution.

8. (previously Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said polyelectrolytic tie layer is deposited onto said article surface by dipping said article into a solution comprising the first polyionic material and the second polyionic material and then removing said article from said solution.

9. (previously Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said contacting occurs by spraying a solution onto the medical device.

10. (previously Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein said polyelectrolytic tie layer is deposited by spraying said article with a first solution comprising the first polyionic material having

positive or negative charges and then spraying said article with a second solution comprising the second polyionic material having charges opposite of the charges of the first polyionic material.

11. (previously Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein said polyelectrolytic tie layer is deposited onto said article surface by spraying said article with a solution comprising the first polyionic material and the second polyionic material.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said article is a biomedical device.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said biomedical device is a contact lens.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said polyelectrolytic tie layer is deposited onto said article surface by spin-coating said article.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said polyelectrolytic tie layer is deposited onto said article surface by chemisorption.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said polyelectrolytic tie layer is deposited onto said article surface by vapor deposition.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said polyelectrolytic tie layer is deposited onto the surface of said article by: (1) spraying said article with a first solution comprising the first polyionic material and then dipping said article into a second solution comprising the second polyionic material having charges opposite of the charges of the first polyionic material; or (2) dipping said article into the first solution comprising the first polyionic material and then spraying said article with the second solution comprising the second polyionic material having charges opposite of the charges of the first polyionic material.